

REDUCTION OF THE VISCOSITY OF REACTIVE HEAVY BYPRODUCTS
DURING THE PRODUCTION OF 1,3-PROPANEDIOL

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Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention is an improvement upon the process for the production of 1,3-propanediol wherein an aqueous solution of 3-hydroxy propanal is formed, catalyst, if any, used in said formation is removed from the solution, sodium hydroxide is added to the solution to neutralize any acid therein such that the pH is at least about 5, the neutralized aqueous solution is subjected to hydrogenation to produce a crude 1,3-propanediol mixture which is distilled to produce 1,3-propanediol, water, and reactive heavy components. The improvement on this process comprises replacing the sodium hydroxide with a hydroxide selected from the group consisting of ammonium hydroxide, alkali metal hydroxides other than sodium hydroxide, and alkaline earth metal hydroxides to reduce the viscosity of the reactive heavy components.